

NIFA in the News – Week of July 8, 2013

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NIFA Headlines

USDA Blog: [Paris Air Show a Hit for USDA Partners](#)

USDA Blog: [Scientists Discover Gene to Combat Devastating Wheat Rust](#)

In the News

Universities Working to Stop Falling Dairy Numbers (Wisconsin Ag Connection 7/3).

National dairy numbers have fallen by more than two-thirds since 1995 and staff at the University of Kentucky have joined forces with five other universities to try and reverse the decline. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture is funding the \$3 million effort.

UT heading dairy study in Southeast (WATE 6/20). A six-state study will attempt to pinpoint the causes of the decline in the Southeastern U.S. dairy industry. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture is the lead institution for the study, funded by a \$3 million grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. [Link](#)

Arizona BioTech Company Awarded Federal Grant to Fight Devastating Shrimp Diseases (Digital Journal 7/8).

TransGenada Enterprises has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant by The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), part of the USDA. The grant fast-tracks TransGenada's venture to create commercially viable, near immunized strains of Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) using their

proprietary mechanism to deliver targeted and unique genetic traits. [Link](#)

Beneficial Pests (AgInfo.net 7/9). There are a variety of beneficial insects that actually benefit our lives - according to Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy - Director of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. The honey bee is just one example of a beneficial insect - which Ramaswamy says produces honey and pollinates crops. [Link](#)

The Upside of Inflammation: Kansas State University Study Finds Surprising Benefits (Newswise 7/9). Inflammation. The word typically has a negative connotation. Arthritis ... infection ... numerous maladies come to mind. But a Kansas State University researcher found that inflammation that occurs naturally in dairy cows the first few days after giving birth may play a surprisingly beneficial role in the complex process of going from late pregnancy to lactation. The results of the study, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, indicate that inflammation-induced insulin resistance is in some cases an adaptive, rather than pathological, phenomenon. It may help clarify why the links between inflammation and metabolism have survived the evolution process. [Link](#)

Grants spur solutions to address nitrate issues (The Salinas Californian 7/9). No one likes excess nitrates in Central Coast water. Not farmers, not environmentalists and certainly not those charged with stemming the problem... Bridget Hoover, director of the Water Quality Protection Program and one of the partners in the grant, explained that one grant of just under \$40,000 was from an agency called Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education, a competitive grant program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose is to increase the capacity for technical assistance and information sharing through a website that contains important information and best practices on irrigation and nutrient management and joint trainings. For example, an employee of the Resource Conservation District in Santa Cruz can access the website and download the same data sheets that an employee of Upper Salinas Las Tablas RCD uses. It puts everyone on the same page with the most up-to-date information. [Link](#)

Arizona Company Awarded Federal Grant to Fight Devastating Shrimp Diseases (The Fish Site 7/10). TransGenada Enterprises has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant by The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), part of the USDA, to create commercially viable, near immunized strains of Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) using their proprietary mechanism to deliver targeted and unique genetic traits.

[Link](#)

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